

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph, i.e., lines 4-7, to read as follows.

This non-provisional U.S. national application, filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a), claims, ~~under 37 C.F.R. §1.78(a)(3),~~ the benefit of the filing date of a provisional U.S. national application Serial No. 60/199,350 filed on April 24, 2000 under 35 U.S.C. §111(b), the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.